

and editing, other accomplished and energetic Fellows of the Royal Microscopical Society, namely T. Jeffery Parker, B.Sc., A. W. Bennett, M.A., B.Sc., and F. Jeffrey Bell, B.A.; and the results of their combined work continue to be scientifically good and of great value to the Society to which they belong, and to the scientific world in general.

The original communications to the Society, upwards of forty in number, contain many excellent natural-history notes and memoirs, mostly illustrated, besides those in which the Microscope itself is the more important subject.

*Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society.*

New Series, vol. vii. part 2, pp. 107-218, with 7 plates. Edited by J. W. DAVIS, F.S.A., F.G.S., &c. Svo. Leeds, 1879.

THIS latest publication of the long-established scientific Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire bears witness to its vitality and the intellectual activity of its Members. Mr. W. Morrison's address, short as it is, is strong in sensible remarks on the ill effects that "cramming" and prize-getting have on modern education, in which work is not done for the work's sake, but for some material end and self-aggrandizement. Local geology has many useful illustrations among the papers in this Part of the Proceedings, ranging from the coal-fields to the glacial phenomena of Yorkshire; and some of the papers, though treating of local facts, have philosophical bearings of wide application—such, for instance, as the Rev. E. M. Cole's paper on the origin and formation of the Wold Dales. For Natural History we find interesting and new matter detailed by Messrs. Cash and Hick in their communication on Fossil Fungi (pl. vi.) from the Coal-measures; and to the Cryptogams they refer Carruthers's *Traquairia*, also from the Halifax coal. Mr. J. W. Davis describes (without figures) some new Carboniferous fish-remains as *Ostracacanthus dilatatus*, which he thinks has strong Teleostean affinities. A summary of the geological literature relating to Yorkshire which has been published in 1877-78, the Minutes of Meetings (comprising a notice of Raygill Cave), the Report, and some miscellaneous matter complete this useful No. of the Proceedings.

MISCELLANEOUS.

*On the Formation of the Shell in the Snails.*

By MM. LONGE and E. MER.

THE shell of the *Helices* consists of two principal layers, of organic and mineral nature, clothed with a cuticle which is wholly organic. The first of these layers is composed, commencing exteriorly, of a structure showing confused striation, of about the same thickness as the cuticle, and of another thicker one formed of vertical prisms.